

EXHIBIT A

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

IN RE: Bard IVC Filters Products Liability
Litigation,

No. MDL 15-2641-PHX DGC

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER
NO. ____

**(Discovery Protocols for Bellwether
Group 1)**

Pursuant to Case Management Order No. 11 [Doc. 1662], No. 18 [Doc. 3685], No. 19 [Doc. 4311], No. 20 [Doc. 4335], and No. 21 [Doc. 4866], the Court enters this Case Management Order No. ____ regarding discovery to be conducted specific to the cases in Bellwether Group 1.

I. DEPOSITION PROTOCOLS GENERALLY

- A. Case Management Order No. 14 shall apply to Bellwether Group 1.
- B. The additional protocols of this Case Management Order shall also apply to Bellwether Group 1 as provided herein.

II. FACT WITNESS DEPOSITIONS PERMITTED

- A. Commencing three (3) days after the Court's selection of the Bellwether Group 1 cases and through June 30, 2017, the Parties may each take not more than six depositions of case relevant fact (non-expert) witnesses in

1 each case that is part of Bellwether Group I. The parties may exceed this
2 number by mutual agreement or Order of the Court.

3 B. The parties shall make a good faith effort to identify the case relevant fact
4 witnesses they intend to depose in each case in accordance with Section II.A
5 above, and exchange lists of those witnesses by May 12, 2017.

6 C. Thereafter, the parties shall make a good faith effort, on a rolling basis, and
7 in accordance with Section II.A above, to identify any additional case
8 relevant fact witnesses they intend to depose, as soon as those witnesses
9 become known to them or they determine the need to depose the witness.

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11 D. Examination of treating physicians.

12 1. By no later than five (5) days following the Court's selection of
13 Bellwether Group 1, Plaintiffs shall supplement the list they provided
14 pursuant to CMO 21 of physicians whom they have a good faith
15 belief they would call as witnesses in their case in chief for each
16 Bellwether Group 1 case. By no later than ten (10) days thereafter,
17 Defendants shall supplement the list they provided pursuant to CMO
18 21 of physicians not identified by Plaintiffs whom Defendants have a
19 good faith belief they would call in their case in chief for each
20 Bellwether Group 1 case.

21 2. For any physician deposed in Bellwether Group 1:

- 22 a. Plaintiffs' counsel shall be the first examiner for any physician
23 Plaintiffs identified in response to Paragraph II.B.1 of CMO 21 or
24 they have identified timely under Para. II. B. 1 to this Order; and
25 b. Defendants' counsel shall be the first examiner for any physician
26 Defendants identified in response to Paragraph II.B.1 of CMO 21
27 or they have identified timely under Para. II. B. 1 to this Order.
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1 **III. PROTOCOLS RELATING TO TREATING PHYSICIANS**

2 **A. Ex Parte Communications with Treating Physicians**

- 3 1. Defendants are prohibited from communicating *ex parte* with
4 Plaintiffs' treating physicians.
5 2. Plaintiffs' counsel may communicate *ex parte* with treating
6 physicians.

7 **B. Disclosure of Documents Prior to Depositions of Treating Physicians**

- 8 1. If Plaintiffs' counsel has communicated *ex parte* with a treating
9 physician who will be deposed, Plaintiffs' counsel shall identify by
10 production bates number (or by providing a copy if no such bates
11 numbers exist) to opposing counsel all documents provided, shown,
12 read from, or otherwise specifically described to the witness, other
13 than the physician's records of treatment, at least five (5) days prior
14 to the deposition, those five days to include and count weekends and
15 holidays.
16 2. For *ex parte* meetings with a physician that take place less than five
17 (5) days prior to the deposition:
18 a. at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, counting weekends and
19 holidays, Plaintiffs' counsel shall identify by production bates
20 number (or by providing a copy if no such bates numbers exist) to
21 opposing counsel all documents they intend to provide, show,
22 read from, or otherwise specifically describe to the witness, other
23 than the physician's records of treatment;
24 b. as soon as practicable after the meeting, Plaintiffs' counsel shall
25 disclose to opposing counsel all documents that were actually
26 provided, shown, read from, or otherwise specifically described to
27 the witness, other than the physician's records of treatment.
28

3. At least five (5) days, counting weekends and holidays, prior to a physician deposition, all examining counsel shall provide to opposing counsel and deponent's counsel copies of documents that may be shown to the witness during the deposition or about which counsel expects to examine a deponent, other than the physician's records of treatment. The obligations of this section include the good faith representations of counsel to identify only those documents actually intended to be utilized during the deposition, not to exceed 40 in number.

IV. EXPERT WITNESS DEPOSITIONS

A. Commencing on June 20, 2017 and no later than July 30, 2017, the parties may take the depositions of all case specific expert witnesses disclosed for Bellwether Group 1 cases, limited to their case specific opinions if those witnesses are also experts previously disclosed as general MDL experts.

V. TRIAL DEPOSITIONS

A. For good cause shown, and either by stipulation of the Parties or order of the Court, trial preservation testimony of previously deposed witnesses will be permitted.

DATED this ____ day of May 2017.
